



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady to firm entering the weekend. Demand was light to fairly good, best where features were in progress or planned for next week. Supplies were held with confidence and ranged about sufficient to close for current trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were short to barely adequate for the light to fairly good demand. Breaking schedules were irregular. Light type hens were at least adequate to sufficient for the at least moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reported as mostly normal.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL EGG Retail prices were unchanged with prices to producers in IA/MN/WI higher for the larger sizes and unchanged for small. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Cartoned egg sales were light to moderate and better into planned features. Loose egg movement continued moderate. Floor stocks were balanced to adequate with inventories being carefully controlled.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI	Prices paid to producers.	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	87-96	91-93				
LARGE	87-95	89-92				
MEDIUM	74-80	76-79				
			LARGE	74-81		76
			MEDIUM	64-68		66
			SMALL	36-38		

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV, Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged, however all sizes were trending higher for next week's deliveries. The market tone was fully steady to firm. Demand into all outlets ranged light to fairly good. Supplies were adequate to close and continued to be held with confidence. Breaking stock supplies from regular sources were short to barely adequate for irregular schedules. Demand was moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were at least adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were noted as mostly normal.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	95-109	95-101
LARGE	90-104	97-99
MEDIUM	80-89	81-83

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was moderate to fairly good. Food service movement remained moderate. Supplies were adequate and were still held with expectations of sharply higher values coming next week. Central states breaking stock prices were too few to report as breakers work from regular commitments and attempt to stay clear of spot breaking stock purchases. Demand was light to fairly good with offerings tight to inadequate and held with extreme confidence. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	94.5-103	96-99
LARGE	93.5-102	95-98
MEDIUM	79.5-88	81-84

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending higher on all sizes. The market tone was fully steady to firm entering the weekend. Demand was moderate to good, best where features were in progress or planned. Supplies were adequate to closely balanced and held confidently. Breaking stock supplies were short to barely sufficient for the moderate demand. Breaking schedules were mixed. Offerings of spent hen were at least adequate to sufficient for mostly normal processing schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	95.5-103	97-100
LARGE	94-101	95-98
MEDIUM	79.5-87	80-84

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NEW YORK EGGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady to firm entering the weekend. Demand into all channels was light to fairly good. Supplies were about adequate to close and held with confidence.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	108-112
LARGE	106-110
MEDIUM	95-99

CHICAGO AND MIDWEST EGGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was moderate to good, best for features that are planned or in progress. Food service movement was moderate, instances good. Supplies were adequate to close and held with confidence.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	93-101	95-97
LARGE	92-100	93-96
MEDIUM	79-88	82-84

WESTERN REGION EGG Prices unchanged. The market tone was firm with asking prices for next week 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 7 cents higher on medium throughout the region. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings held for premium prices.

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was firm with asking prices for next week 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 7 cents higher on medium and small. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings adequate for current needs but held for top prices. Small benchmark price 95. Ads in Southern California: major- large 18 pack 2 for \$4; smaller outlets- jumbo dozen 199, extra large 20 pack 199, large dozen 129 with coupon, medium dozen 99.

CALIFORNIA California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	141
EXTRA LARGE	136
LARGE	127
MEDIUM	115

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	118-130
EXTRA LARGE	116-124
LARGE	114-117
MEDIUM	102-105

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-339
MEDIUM	199-279

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Breaking stock prices were too few to report as breakers work from regular commitments and attempt to stay clear of spot breaking stock purchases. Demand was light to fairly good with offerings tight to inadequate and held with extreme confidence. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment fully steady to firm.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	TFEWR	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	69-75	69-71
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Mostly prices were higher when compared to early week trading. Trade sentiment was steady to full steady. Offerings outside of regular commitments were limited. Overall, supplies range from short to barely adequate for irregular breaking schedules. Demand was moderate but not aggressive. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 21 February 2004 were 1% higher than last week and 15% higher than last year.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	79-84	81-83
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	67-74	68-72
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 21-FEB-04
(Lbs in thousands) (EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED
CW	1,165,061	27,022	11,468	6,415	2,667	3,977
PW	1,191,901	27,870	11,484	6,643	2,762	4,063
LY	1,072,373	26,564	9,555	5,233	2,254	3,971
% CHG PW	-2	-3	0	-3	-3	-2
% CHG LY	9	2	20	23	18	0

2004	8,040,997	187,111	79,041	44,033	19,017	28,525
2003	7,889,984	186,352	74,219	41,253	19,135	29,259
% CHG YTD	2	0	6	7	-1	-3

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	41.96	42.00	42.26
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.54	38.59	38.56

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized whites reported at 81 cents fob with pasteurized salt yolk reported from 56 to 62 cents f.o.b., mostly 60 to 62 cents f.o.b. Trade sentiment was firm for whole egg and whites and steady to fully steady for yolk. Offerings were tight to unavailable at current market quotations for whole egg and whites and just adequate to short for yolk. Asking prices for next week continue to climb on all liquid products. Demand was good to very good for whole egg and whites and fair for yolk. Breaking stock prices were higher when compared to last week.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	7	68.5-73	71.07	5.77
WHITES	12	71-73.25	72.31	3.49
YOLKS	8	57-60	58.38	.38

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Prices generally trended higher on whole and whites and irregular to about steady on yolks when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment was about steady to steady on yolks, at least steady on whole, and steady to fully steady on whites. Demand and trading was fair but not aggressive. Supplies were tight on whites, balanced to improved on whole, and fully sufficient on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 21 February 2004 were 1% less than the previous week, but 15% more than last year.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	(MIN. 25 CONT.) MOSTLY	LTL RANGE
WHOLE	75-82	76-79	86-90
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		86-105
WHITES	83-86		89-94
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-78	75-77	81-89
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-75		77-82
(/)- Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.			

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen whole egg and white prices ranged higher with sugared and salted yolk ranging unchanged to 1 cent lower. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm for whole egg and whites and barely steady to weak on yolk products. Demand was moderate for whole egg and whites and reported as slower than most expect at this time of year for sugared and salted yolk. Offerings were in close balance to adequate for whole egg and whites and fully adequate for all yolk products. Breaking stock prices were higher when compared to the past week's reported prices.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	78-82	79
WHITES	83-86	84-85
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-77	77
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-74	72

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices 3 cents higher on whole and whites, unchanged on yolks. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 2/21 was 18% more than the previous week. Frozen demand improved with freezer stocks light.

Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	85-88
WHITES	89-92
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	81-84
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	78-81

NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT Majority prices were lower on yolks, but higher on balance of items when compared to a week earlier. Trucklot trading improved on albumen and whole, but was usually limited on yolks. Trade sentiment was fully steady on albumen, steady and improving on whole, and irregular on yolks. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 21 February 2004 were 3% less than the previous week, but 18% more than last year. The total year to date dried egg produced was 1% less than a year ago. Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	2.97-3.40	MOSTLY	3.08-3.18
YOLKS	1.58-2.10	MOSTLY	1.58-1.68
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	6.00-6.70	MOSTLY	6.20-6.49
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.96-2.40	MOSTLY	2.00-2.10

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEB 20, 2004-FEB 26, 2004**CURRENT LOADS** 52.75**FUTURE LOADS** 48.00**TOTAL LOADS** 100.75

	SE		NE		MW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	76.00	82.00	74.88	77.13	—	82.50	16.00
GNR W 4	—	—	—	—	65.00	66.00	1.00
GNR BR 1	—	95.50	89.00	—	—	92.00	7.75
GL W J	—	—	92.67	93.67	—	—	3.00
GL W XL	—	91.89	89.67	92.53	89.67	90.45	49.50
GL W LG	—	91.32	87.67	89.44	86.56	88.00	32.75
GL W MD	82.00	72.00	74.63	76.50	72.00	69.00	15.25
GL W SM	—	—	49.00	50.00	52.00	53.50	.75
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	113.00	.75
NRBS - 50	—	—	79.00	80.80	78.00	84.00	2.25
NRBS - 48	—	—	77.00	78.00	85.00	82.00	6.50

	SC		NW		SW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR BR 1	—	93.33	—	—	—	—	3.00
GL W J	101.22	—	—	—	—	110.22	2.25
GL W XL	91.00	—	—	—	—	100.23	7.00
GL W LG	89.00	93.00	—	—	—	96.06	6.25
GL W MD	77.50	75.00	—	—	—	83.38	10.00
GL BR MD	77.00	—	—	—	—	—	1.00

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL
WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS
(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER
CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were at least adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 0-12 9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Bookings of spent fowl were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate supplies. Processing operations were on normal schedules. Finished sales were adequate. Costs of disposal were expected to remain steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged to slightly higher. Demand was moderate to occasionally fairly good with offerings tight to adequate. Opinions of value were generally steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 4-7 6.25-7

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings adequate.

SHELL EGGS-COMBINED REGIONAL

AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	98.00	98.00	82.00
SOUTHEAST	98.50	96.50	82.00
MIDWEST	92.00	90.50	77.50
SOUTH CENTRAL	97.50	96.50	82.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	96.52	95.40	81.06

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were unchanged on both heavy and light canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate. Trading was light on heavy canners. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS

(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

21-28.5 MAJORITY 24-25

HEAVY CANNER HENS

(WITHOUT NECKS)

31.5-37.5 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS

(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

24-30 MAJORITY 26.5-27.5

HEAVY CANNER HENS

(WITHOUT NECKS)

33-39 MAJORITY 36.5-37.5

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 21-Feb-04
(PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,291	1,314	2,605
LAST WEEK	1,230	1,319	2,549
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,534	1,450	2,984
TO-DATE/2004	9,125	8,979	18,104
TO-DATE/2003	11,918	9,737	21,655

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	229	3	232
LAST WEEK	153	8	161
SAME WEEK YR AGO	347	3	350
TO-DATE/2004	1,821	29	1,850
TO-DATE/2003	2,693	46	2,739

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	1,520	1,317	2,837
LAST WEEK	1,383	1,327	2,710
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,881	1,453	3,334
TO-DATE/2004	10,946	9,008	19,954
TO-DATE/2003	14,611	9,783	24,394

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending February 14, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003 2002
LIQUID	147	0	732 1,464
FROZEN	0	0	0 0
DRIED	40	0	49 84
TOTAL	187	0	781 1,548

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending February 14, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003 2002
LIQUID	73	193	684 1,037
FROZEN	48	42	105 369
DRIED	40	0	475 40
TOTAL	161	235	1,264 1,446

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending February 14, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002 /1	2003 2002
JUMBO	0	0	50 0
EXTRA LARGE	780	0	780 150
LARGE	750	1,680	4,443 2,785
MEDIUM	1,500	799	2,280 2,679
UNGRADED	7,200	0	7,950 1,470
MISC	0	0	0 0
TOTAL	10,230	2,479	15,503 7,084

Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)

SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)				
		FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM	02/23/04	3,552	163,751	40,589
AM	02/01/04	3,118	141,357	40,964
CHG		434	22394	-375
PCT CHG		14%	16%	-1%

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS

W/E 21-Feb-04

SELECTED	CW	PW	PCT CHG
CONSUMING CENTERS	THOUSANDS	PW	LY
ATLANTA	25.2	28.3	-11 15
BOSTON	3.8	3.5	9 15
CHICAGO	59.3	57.0	4 14
DETROIT	27.2	27.1	0 -21
KANSAS CITY	5.0	3.3	52 14
LOS ANGELES	98.0	95.4	3 11
NEW ORLEANS	7.7	7.7	0 -45
NEW YORK	29.4	26.5	11 -15
ST. LOUIS	17.9	16.7	7 21
SAN FRANCISCO	19.8	21.0	-6 -12
TOTAL	293.3	286.5	2 1
4 WK MVG AVG	292.8		

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 21-Feb-04

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PW	LY
N. ATLANTIC	211.1	-1	-4
E.N. CENTRAL	547.3	-6	4
W.N. CENTRAL	274.6	-4	2
S. ATLANTIC	179.5	5	2
S. CENTRAL	101.4	0	1
WEST	195.6	8	6
TOTAL	1509.5	-2	2
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85	85

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT

Feb 24, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	150 -	144 -	108 -	70 -
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	144-148 146-147	138-142 140-141	104-108 106-107	65-69 67-68
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	149-153 149	143-147 143	111-115 111	69-73 69
VERMONT MOSTLY	150-153 153	145-147 147	110-111 111	- -

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